

Simmons for 25 outstanding years of service to Mount Zion Baptist Church and a lifetime of service in the ministry of Jesus Christ.

RECOGNITION OF CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Calvary Baptist Church of Republic, Missouri, for the celebration of their 50th anniversary on October 28, 2016.

Calvary Baptist has been an integral part of Republic, Missouri, since 1966. From very humble beginnings in an old schoolhouse to the large modern facilities, Calvary has been involved in enriching and aiding the people of Republic. Over the decades the small group that started Calvary Baptist has now grown to over 1,700 people that comprise the membership of Calvary Baptist Church.

Over the years, hundreds of men, women, and children have placed their faith in Christ through ministries of Calvary Baptist Church. For 50 years, Calvary has been a leader in the church community by reaching out to those in need physically and spiritually and by providing food, finances, and counseling as well as caring for the hurting, grieving, and lonely.

Calvary Baptist has been very involved in sharing the good news of Jesus with many in other countries as well. Every year several groups travel from Republic to other states and foreign countries to perform work-related projects on facilities, orphanages, and rehabilitation centers and to conduct Bible programs for children, teenagers and medical and sports camps.

Mr. Speaker, Calvary Baptist deserves this body's utmost respect for its desire to be an integral part of the Republic community and providing an outlet for so many to help others. I encourage my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in extending to the church our deepest appreciation for their efforts which have contributed so greatly to the people of southwest Missouri, other states, and around the world.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LASKER 'LAS' BELL

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of one of Arkansas' greats in the entertainment industry, Lasker 'Las' Bell, who passed away earlier this month at the age of 88.

Las moved to Camden, Arkansas in search of work, and after an honorable discharge from the U.S. Army was hired to host El Dorados KJWH radio's first soul music radio show.

Moving to television, he pitched his American Bandstand-like show the Las Bell Variety Show that became part of the weekly lineup on KTVE. At the time, Las was the only Black

television host between Memphis and Dallas, and became the first Black interviewer for Channel 10 News in Arkansas.

Las was also involved in the community, serving on the executive board for the Arkansas Council on Human Relations in Ouachita County. He was also appointed to the Human Resources Commission by Governor David Pryor, and reappointed under Governor Frank White.

Las left a lasting impact on our state and will be greatly missed by all of Arkansas.

I extend my respect, affection and prayers to his family and loved ones.

IN HONOR OF THE FARM CREDIT SYSTEM'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of our Nation's farmers and the Farm Credit System as we mark its 100th anniversary.

Since Congress established the Federal Farm Loan Act in 1916, many farmers and producers have relied on the Farm Credit System for access to capital and financial opportunity.

With this incredible program comes more freedom, opportunity, and prosperity for the agriculture community across our nation. It's a critical piece of our duty to help ensure we can keep farmers on their farms.

Back home in North Carolina, we know how important it is to have a prosperous and productive agriculture industry. We respect and admire the men and women who toil our lands and work incredibly hard to provide food and products we depend on in our daily lives. The Farm Credit System is a vital part of this chain, and it ensures we can continue supporting the prosperity of agriculture producers of all sizes and types.

Across North Carolina, more than 14,800 farmers and producers rely on the Farm Credit System to borrow the capital they need to make their businesses successful and provide food and fiber to our communities. Many of these people are young and just starting out in the agriculture industry or are on small farms.

As we commemorate a century of service, we say thank you to our farmers and producers for their hard work to ensure our agriculture community remains strong, both now and for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to watching the Farm Credit System continue to serve our rural and agriculture communities for the next 100 years.

TRIBUTE TO MS. GRACE VANDERWAAL

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Ms. Grace Vanderwaal, an inspiring young woman and this year's winner of America's Got Talent.

Grace is a 12-year-old singer-songwriter from Suffern, New York, who started writing music at the age of three when she would make up songs with her wireless microphone. She was introduced to ukulele music by a family friend, and then decided to use her birthday money from her 11th birthday to buy her own ukulele. A true musical prodigy, Grace mastered the ukulele within a year, now owning five ukuleles, as well as a piano and a saxophone.

Grace began performing at local establishments for small audiences, but had never played before a large crowd until this past summer. She shared her amazing talents with the world when she auditioned for Season 11 of America's Got Talent and played her original song, "I Don't Know My Name," a song about finding who you are and where you fit in, while playing the ukulele. Grace impressed the judges so much she was sent straight to the "Live Shows." Grace continued astonishing audiences, performing original pieces as she advanced in each round of the show, and on September 14, was crowned the first prize winner, taking home a \$1 million prize, a Las Vegas show date, and a record contract. Before the Las Vegas show, Grace will return home to Suffern for a Saturday, October 1 parade and celebration with her family, neighbors, and schoolmates.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize my extremely talented constituent, Ms. Grace Vanderwaal, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on this achievement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BETTY SMITH

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Betty Smith, who passed away on April 24, 2016.

Betty spent most of her life in Knightsen, California preserving the rich farming culture of East Contra Costa County.

She began contributing to her community at a young age. While attending Liberty High School, she co-wrote the lyrics to the school's anthem, which is still used by the Liberty Lions today. After high school, she studied at University of the Pacific in Stockton, and worked at Fiberboard in Antioch.

Betty continued her service by teaching preschool for many years and participating in the Knightsen Garden Club and 4-H Club.

Betty and her husband, William R. Smith, continued the family farm started by her parents. As a multi-generation family farm in Knightsen, Smith Family Farm is known for many varieties of stone fruits, tomatoes, zucchinis, apples and cruciferous greens. Each year, the Farm holds a Tomato Festival and Pumpkin Harvest Festival to celebrate the fresh crops of East Contra Costa County.

Over the last 25 years, Betty greeted visitors from near and far when they arrived at Smith Family Farm to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables during the U-pick season. She engaged the visiting children with her barn show and taught them about farming, nature and local history using songs, stories, and